



May 22, 2014

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
United States House of Representatives
217 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Marino
United States House of Representatives
410 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter Welch
United States House of Representatives
2303 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Judy Chu
United States House of Representatives
1520 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Blackburn, Marino, Welch and Chu:

On behalf of the Healthcare Distribution Management Association (HDMA) and our 33 primary pharmaceutical distributor members, I would like to express HDMA's support for the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2014 (H.R. 4709). We appreciate your leadership and commitment to working with the healthcare supply chain and law enforcement to combat the inappropriate use of prescription medicines. Your legislation is a timely and thoughtful approach to addressing the drug abuse epidemic.

HDMA believes the legislation will foster greater collaboration, communication and transparency between industry stakeholders and regulators, especially the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

This legislation will clarify key terminology in the Controlled Substances Act to give registrants a better understanding of their responsibilities under the law. This bill will also allow DEA-registered companies to submit corrective action plans to address any agency concerns, creating a more robust and transparent process to address drug diversion with the intention of curtailing unnecessary supply chain disruptions that affect patient access to needed medications. In addition, the report to Congress will encourage meaningful dialogue to identify how collaboration between agencies and stakeholders can benefit patients and prevent diversion and abuse of controlled substances.

HDMA and its primary pharmaceutical distributor members are committed to being part of the solution to this serious public health challenge, working collaboratively with supply chain partners and government officials to address prescription drug abuse and finding ways to slow this epidemic. Again, HDMA commends you for your leadership on this important issue and we look forward to supporting your efforts to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John M. Gray', is written over a light blue circular background element.

John M. Gray
President and CEO